FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. S.1004

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TO: The Honorable Glenn McConnell, Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board

ANALYSTS: Kenneth Brown, R.J. Stein, Rodney Grizzle

DATE: April 14, 2008 SBD: 2008206

AUTHOR: Senator Lourie PRIMARY CODE CITE: 20-7-2720

SUBJECT: Childcare Enhancement Act of 2008

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

The Bill enacts the "Childcare Enhancement Act of 2008" which requires licensure of group childcare homes and a registry of children enrolled be maintained, clarifies that persons providing childcare for six or fewer children must be register, requires at least one inspection every three years and adds Subarticle 11, Chapter 7 of Title 20 establishing misdemeanor and felony crimes for certain childcare violations and specifies violations subject to fines and the maximum fine amount for each type violation.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

Department of Social Services

The Department indicates this Bill would require additional General Funds of the State totaling \$789,892. Costs of \$713,792 would cover salaries and fringe benefits for Seventeen (17.00) FTE positions and \$76,100 for operating expenses. Staff would perform duties associated with registration, background checks, on-site visits and complaint follow-up as prescribed by the legislation. The Department indicates it is uncertain how many family child care homes would be added as a result of this legislation, as well as, the number of facilities that could be subject to fines. There could be additional costs, not reflected in the estimates above, depending on the volume of additional homes and facilities.

<u>Judicial Department and Department of Health & Environmental Control</u>

The Departments indicate this Bill will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which can be absorbed by the agency at the current level of funding.

Other Agencies

The Department of Corrections, Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services and Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation indicate that there is no impact to the General Fund of the State or on Federal and/or Other Funds.

Approved by:
Harry Bell

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Assistant Director, Office of State Budget